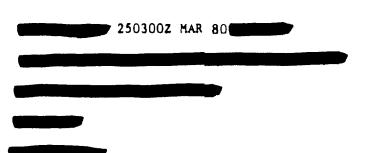
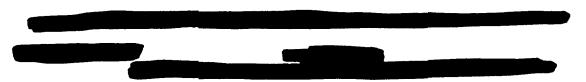


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- 1. AT APPROXIMATELY 1800 HOURS ON 24 MARCH 1980, SALVADOR'S ARCHBISHOP OSCAR ARNULFO R O M E R O G A L D A M E Z WAS ASSASSINATED WHILE CELEBRATING MASS IN THE CHAPEL OF THE "DEVINE PROVIDENCE" HOSPITAL IN SAN SALVADOR. WHILE NUMEROUS ACCOUNTS ARE ALREADY CIRCULATING, MOST RELIABLE APPEARS TO BE THAT ROMERO WAS KILLED BY A SINGLE BULLET THRU THE HEART WHICH WAS FIRED FROM A GUN CONCEALED IN A CAMERA EQUIPPED WITH A FLASH ATTACHMENT. PRESUMABLE, ROMERO KILLED BY A RIGHTIST ASSASSINATION SQUAD.
- ALREADY ALERTED THE DEPARTMENT AND
 APPARENTLY, THE WHITE HOUSE TO ROMERO'S ASSASSINATION
 IN SEVERAL PHONE CALLS TO
 UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE BOWDLER. PER AMBASSADOR, CRITIC REPORTING
 NOT BEING INITIATED.
- SURELY PROVOKE RESPONSE FROM SALVADORAN LEFT AND EVEN NOW, A LARGE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ARE CONGREGATING AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY APPROXIMATLEY SIX BLOCKS FROM THE EMBASSY. BELIEVE THAT THE IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW IS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY AND PROBABLY THE ONLY STEP WHICH WILL BE ABLE TO CONTAIN THE VIOLENCE WHICH IS SURE TO FOLLOW.



Approved for Release NOV 1993
